

American mail steamers would come alongside, and that they could save the mails and passengers for London and the South would be landed there without the necessity of their going round by Liverpool.

The returns of the British Board of Trade show a falling off in the exports during the month of April, of a little over half a million sterling, as compared with April, 1857. This falling off is less than is shown by the returns of the several preceding months, and is regarded as a sign of revival in most departments of trade.

Sir R. J. Murchison, President of the Royal Geographical Society, corrects an error into which the newspaper writers have fallen in the presentation of the Victoria Gold Medal of the Geographical Society to an American citizen. He says the recipient of the medal "is not Prof. Packe, but the celebrated American geographer, Alexander Dallas Hare, the author of the great Coast Survey of the United States, and nephew of the American Minister to England, and a descendant of Benjamin Franklin."

A letter from Plymouth, dated on board the United States frigate Niagara, evening of the 27th May, says:— "The Niagara and Azamoun are lying within about 300 yards of each other, and the cable on which they are connected, and telegraphic messages are now being sent through the whole Atlantic cable, in the most perfect manner. All on board of the five steamers are in good spirits and feel confident of success. We expect to sail on the experimental trip on Saturday (28th May)."

The London Evening Advertiser learns that the conference between the Lords and Commons has ended in the former agreeing to the principle of the right of Jews to re-enter in Parliament, and the result will be that Baron Rothschild will very speedily take his seat in the House of Commons.

Prince Albert has just returned from Germany, where he would remain about a week.

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## FRANCE.

From Our Own Correspondent.

PARIS, May 27, 1858.

Granted that Napoleon III. is a man of great ability as a politician, still the warmest admirers of his talent in statescraft, if they have followed the history of his advancement and success for the past nine years, must notice that his progress has been favored by a remarkable combination of auxiliary circumstances. He has had an extraordinary run of luck, and he shows unusual wisdom in profiting to the utmost by it. Within the past few months, however, there has been a succession of incidents and accidents in which ingenious people are beginning to discover signs of a turn in outward fortune and a weakening of Imperial judgment.

The *Loi des Suspects* and accompanying measures of renewed severity in time of peace, and after seven years of established government, may be of good policy, but it is difficult to find their profitable results. They have certainly irritated and alarmed quiet citizens, and have proved inefficient to reduce that "state of expectation" against which they were aimed. The affair of Châlons-sur-Saône broke out while they were in their first lusty prime of energetic application; and that, too, as appears in the late trial, when the Prefect of Police had been notified six days beforehand of the plan of the rioters, the ringleaders of whom made their escape after all. The quarrel with England about the political refugees—although Count Walewski got rather the better, as a diplomatic note writer, of the English Foreign Office—beginning with the laughable bluster of the French Colonels, and ending with the Bernard trial and the insulting hurrah of the English people; the election of two Opposition candidates in Paris, under the very nose of majesty; the reelection of Count Mignon, a candidate much more offensive to Imperial ears than the first; and the election to the lower house of the Chamber of Deputies, France that they carry with them each a little touch of ridicule. The English about the Old Bailey was a cross between a defiant huzzah and a guffaw. The last-chosen Opposition member to the Legislative Corps from Paris was carried in by the votes of those *ouverts* who are so constantly praised for their fond attachment to the Emperor. Little Count Mignon was held up by the Government prosecutor himself only a few months ago as a laughing stock to all France—as a man absurd and even criminally vain; and that trial was this man, virtually forced by that trial to political emigration brought against him—to resign his membership, who, coming out of the prison to which the Court condemned him for wearing a legionary cross that had never been conferred upon him, gains a new victory over the Government candidate, supported by all the means in the hands of Government. There now joins on to this unlucky series of events, the famous *Figaro* duel. Men's minds are not yet recovered from their emotion on this account. It is true that the civil tribunal within whose jurisdiction the fight took place, has begun an examination of the affair, but people hardly expect that the Court will—and indeed it is doubtful whether with strict legality it can inflict due punishment upon Capt. Hyeme. The Minister of War, that is, the Emperor, has alone full right and power to do this. The actual signs of likelihood are negative. Lieutenant de Mercey, twice condemned to death, after fair trial by his peers, on the charge of having murdered, under pretext of a fencing match, an inferior officer, has just had his penalty commuted by imperial grace—committed to life imprisonment. It is supposed, as was the case with Captain Deneux, who was condemned last year for a murder in Algeria: to be further commuted, it is supposed, when talk of the affair dies away, to a lesser penalty or to full pardon. While such indulgence is shown to crime in epistolary letters; while M. De Pené still lies faintly vibrating between life and death; while his fellow journalists "effluently" suppress their indignation, their expressions of sympathy, and, indeed, all comments on the case, the officers of the garrison of St. Denis, mainly, forty in number, receive a letter to the Military Governor, published in that town, "desiring, and, if it need be, demanding" the insertion in his paper of a letter addressed to them by one Rogé, sub-lieutenant in another regiment, and fellow-second of Capt. Hyeme. As you will probably publish this singular epistle, it is enough to say of it here that the writer maintains, in a curiously mixed spirit of boyishness and brutality, that the whole army was insulted mortally by M. De Pené's fight and squib, and that all its officers consequently were bound, as honorable gentlemen, to fight him, in course, had not fencing-master Hyeme's success in running his wearied antagonist twice through the body, and so "avenging the entire army, to whom the insult was addressed," relieved the otherwise thousands from this solemn duty. You can imagine the feelings which a letter excites in the minds of civilians.

Let me say you may imagine them. You must, for you will see no expression of them in your "Parisian Echo," and I can dwell no longer on this extraordinary proof of the ascendancy of the army in this Empire, which the chief of it declared, at the time of its installation, "is Peace," and I leave it to your readers to decide whether those ingenious speculators judge soundly who are in the signs of the times, of which a few samples are noted above, the beginning of a turn in Napoleon's luck.

It is now almost a settled matter, they say, that Prince Napoleon shall go as the Emperor's lieutenant to Algeria. The colony is to be erected into a sort of viceroyalty; the Prince is to have Ministers of his own, and to hold directly from the Emperor.

The trial of the Châlons rioters ended a few days ago, mainly in smoke. Most of the rioters were let off with slight punishment. The severest penalty was four years' imprisonment and 1,000 francs, pronounced but not inflicted upon one Serey, the ringleader; for that person had gone off on his travels, not caring to attend his trial—another proof of the fallibility of repressive measures. A "wonderful French police." We have already had still another instance of their vigilance and sagacity. An Englishman coming to Paris the other day was seized at his hotel; his trunks were broken open, his coat linings ripped up, and he and all his belongings subjected to two policemen, which resulted in their profound conviction that the honest man was *not* Mazzini. If that conspirator is coming to town, as these gentlemen are expecting, he will probably ask some of them the way to his hotel, or cork their very noses, as he passes unasked under them. The gravity of that mischief-making Italian must be sorely tried

The President. The second meeting took place on the 26th of May, but nothing is known of the proceedings.

M. de Persé, the victim of the recent duel, was in a dying state.

Rudio, the confederate of Orsini and Pierri, had been sent to Cayenne.

The Bourne was heavy on the 28th. The Three per Cents closed at 69.00.

The Independence Bill is to be prevented from entering France for an indefinite period.

The Paris correspondent of *The London Times* says: "At Madrid, whose success in Alsace has so much disappointed and irritated the Government, intends to resign, and propose to the electors a warm partisan of his own. The Government, who do not wish to risk another defeat, will, I am assured, make no opposition, but accept M. Migeux's protest."

Letters from Algeria announce that in consequence of the formation of the present appointing Prince Napoleon as Governor General of the colony, the entire body of the military administration propose to return to France with Marshal Randon.

It is stated that after the funeral of the Duchess of Orleans, the Count de Paris, who is now the head of the family, formally declared that his opinions in regard to a fusion of the two branches of the French Bourbons were the same as his mother's, and that he would not assent to any fashion tending to lower the position he held as chief of the family.

The opposition to the project for the sale of hospital and other charitable property was so great that it was thought the Government would revoke the measure.

It is said that the Minister of War had sent a very strong circular to be read to all the officers in every corps, relative to the late duel. It solemnly admonishes officers to avoid all quarrels with civilians, and imperatively prohibits officers corresponding with newspapers.

There was current that the French men-of-war, assembled at Toulon, were about to make a demonstration against Morocco.

**SPAIN.**

From Our Own Correspondent.

MADRID, May 21, 1858.

The course of politics in these last two years has demonstrated the absolute impossibility in which the Moderado party finds itself to give a strong and liberal Government to Spain. In order to govern there must be life, and the Moderado party does not possess it. This party has subdivided itself into many fractions, and the shades which these fractions represent in politics are manifold; but none of them is liberal in the true acceptance of the word. The actual Government, some wish to suppose, is one of liberal ideas; and the fact of the matter is, it is utterly devoid of them, as is clearly shown by the acts and dispositions of each department. The present relations with the Court of Rome, the influence of the Nuncio of his Holiness in all the affairs of the State, and the ascendancy which his indications and counsels have acquired over the mind of the Queen, joined to the restitution to the clergy of their unsold property, which it seems will be done by a royal decree, prove the contrary of what some pretend to say with respect to the liberal system of the Istrutriz Cabinet. The Legislature of 1858, being declared terminated after the suspension of the sessions of the Cortes, these will not be convoked anew, at least by this Ministry, till the month of December. Among the more important subjects that have been left undiscussed, and without being approved by the Senate and Congress, may be reckoned the Budget for the present year, the proposed extension of the restitution of the property of the Church, and the restoration of the railway to France by Navarre and the Aluidis. This last project, presented to the Cortes by the Minister of Public Works, has been one of the principal motives for the suspension of the sessions and termination of the present Legislature. An immense majority presented itself hostile to the project of the Navarre Minister, and the whole political press strongly attacked it, the Government having a minority of the votes in the naming of the Commission. The Aluidis are in the Pyrenees the strongest barriers that separate France from Spain, and, for the general good of the nation, the inadmissibility of extending for more than thirty leagues between the two countries, should be preserved without the slightest communication.

One of the Deputies, who most strongly opposed this project, is Sr. Posada Herrera, named a few days ago Minister of the Interior, in place of Sr. Diaz of the Neo-Catholic ideas, who resigned by wish of his political chief Sr. Bravo-Murillo, President of the Cortes, and who is known to all as author of the Reform bill of 1852, tending to make the throne absolute.

The majority of the Congress who showed themselves so propitious to Sr. Bravo-Murillo on his being named President, have almost all of them deserted his interests, and they now reprimand him for the blunders they imagine he has committed on the precarious ground upon which the President himself rests in the penultimate sessions. Several Deputies having Government employments voted against the ruling of the President, and on this account Sr. Diaz, Minister of the Interior at that time, demanded the dismissal of these Deputies from their employments. The Council of Ministers did not deem it convenient to dismiss them, and Sr. Diaz immediately presented his resignation, which the Queen, consoled by Sr. Istrutriz, accepted.

Gen. Narvaez had an audience of the Queen four days ago, and as the interview was rather long, his partisans have spread the report that he was about to resume the Presidency of the Council, and to form a new Cabinet. There is not the least probability that this will take place, as the Queen, although it is true some time ago she thought of calling Narvaez to her, is likely to do so now, since she considers him the chief of the party who are seeking to bring about a fusion of the rival branches of the Royal family in the interest of the Carlist pretender. The actual Government will continue in power only a short time; it has no stability, and there is some discord among its individuals. But Sr. Istrutriz, who always shows himself very gallant and obliging toward the Queen, is sure of this lady's confidence in him.

The English Ambassador continues his attentions and friendship with the chiefs of the Democratic party.

The French Ambassador does not possess all the influence he covets in some of the affairs of state, but has frequent interviews with the Queen.

The Spanish *Credit Mobilier* is carrying on with great activity and expedition the works of the Railway of the North, and is treating with the Province of Guipuzcoa for the construction of that portion of it which is the last part of it, in order to connect it with the road from Bayonne to the frontier. Its shares, nevertheless, experience a loss of ten per cent in the quotation of the market. The railway from Seville to Cordova is going on rather slowly. The other affairs of this company are completely at a stand-still.

The voyage of the Queen to Alicante and Valencia, which will take place on the 24th or 25th inst., seems to be a mystery to some and an amusement to others. The large number of horses, coaches and servants who attend Aranzjuez for Alicante seem to indicate something more than a mere journey of pleasure for only eight days. In that port there are now lying at anchor close to the Spanish fleet two French men-of-war which the Emperor has sent to increase the number of ships forming the guard of honor. The Minister of Marine will guide the helm of the ship Francisco de Asis, in which the Queen will sail from Alicante to Valencia.

In the employments of the Palace it seems that some innovations are going to take place. It is said that the Marquis of Casa Isabel, favored by the King, will leave off being Intendant of the Palace. The Queen will return to Madrid on the 4th or 6th of June. The Vicarist Generals are in high spirits since the ball at Aranzjerez, given on the night of the 13th.

Here is a list of the vessels and guns forming the squadron of honor to convey the Queen from Alicante to Valencia, a voyage of about 40 leagues:

	Ons, Home-Pow'r,
New ship of the line (sails) Francisco de Asis.....	36
No Gunboat or corvette.....	30
New corvette (sails) Pizarro.....	30
New corsete (sails) Isabel II.....	20
No Frigate (sails).....	10
Wheel steamer Isidro.....	4
Wheel steamer Juan.....	4
Wheel steamer Pizarro.....	6
Wheel steamer Juan.....	4
Wheel steamer Juan.....	4
Wheel steamer Juan.....	4
Wheel steamer Juan.....	4
Total (seven vessels).....	200

1,830

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